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NASHVILLE—Tennessee's January unemployment rate decreased slightly to 4.2 percent, down one-tenth of a percentage point over the month, Commissioner Michael E. Magill of the Department of Labor and Workforce Development announced. Tennessee's rate matched the national average, which increased two-tenths of a percentage point to 4.2 percent.

"Tennessee's employment picture remains stable, even with slight fluctuations in the unemployment rate over the last few months," Magill stated.

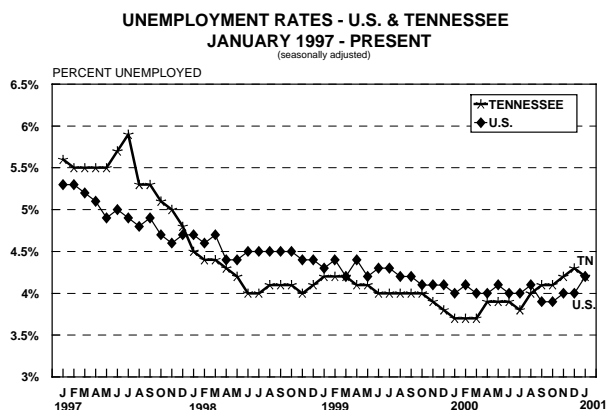
"We are continuing to see positive signs of employment growth over the year in several industries, including retail trade and services."

At this time last year, Tennessee's jobless rate was 3.7 percent, while the national average was 4.0 percent.

The non-farm jobs picture over-the-month showed employment increased in personal services, up by 1,300. Hospitals added 200 jobs. Typical for January, employment declined in seasonal-related industries with retail trade down by 28,400. Services lost 22,800 and government lost 8,200 jobs.

The over-the-year figures, which eliminate the seasonal swings, showed services adding 22,800 jobs, with almost a third of the growth in business services. Trade added 15,200 jobs.

Employment declined in durable goods manufacturing by 6,700 and nondurable goods by 2,500. Apparel was down by 3,100 and finance had a loss of 1,600 jobs.



LABOR FORCE ESTIMATES SUMMARY - TENNESSEE

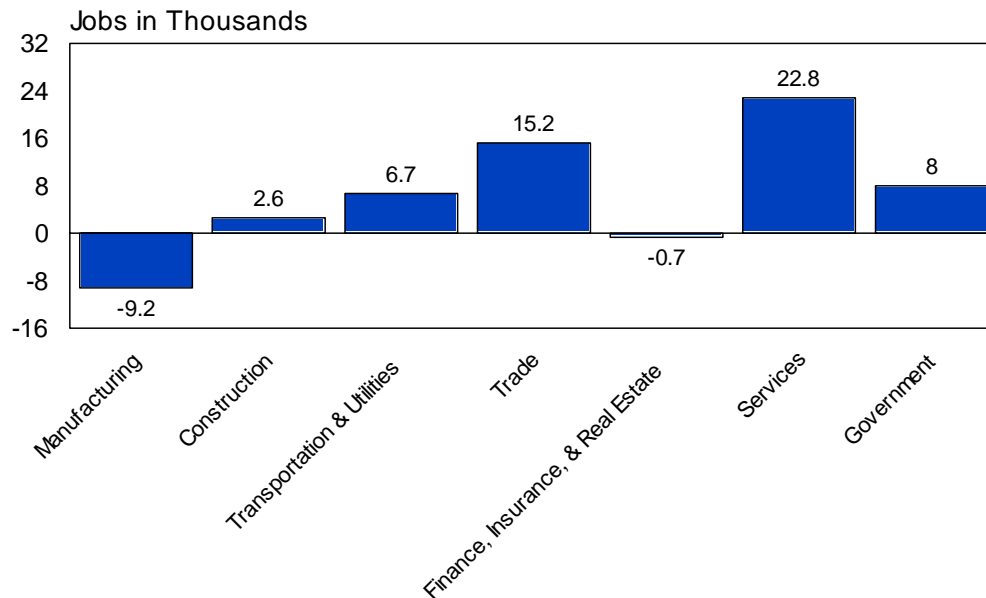
January 2001 (preliminary) - BM 2000

Seasonally Adjusted	Labor Force	Employment	Unemployment	Unemployment Rate		Rate Change
				Jan.	Dec.	
UNITED STATES	141,955,000	135,999,000	5,956,000	4.2 %	4.0 %	0.2 %
TENNESSEE	2,873,400	2,751,300	122,100	4.2	4.3	-0.1

Not Seasonally Adjusted						
UNITED STATES	141,049,000	134,462,000	6,587,000	4.7 %	3.7 %	1.0 %
TENNESSEE	2,828,900	2,691,000	137,900	4.9	3.8	1.1

OVER THE YEAR JOB GROWTH

By Major Industry (January 2000-2001)



County and MSA rates will be released on Wednesday, February 28, 2001.

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NOTE: Information will be available on the Internet; enter "http://www.state.tn.us/labor-wfd/labor_figures." Sound may be obtained from the Governor's NewsLine at 1-800-342-1483 or Nashville area 741-4877.

NOTE: Tennessee's employment and unemployment statistics are based on two major surveys. The Current Population Survey (CPS) is a survey by place of residence providing estimates on the number of people in the labor force, total employment, unemployment, and the unemployment rate. Beginning in January 1992, the CPS data are seasonally adjusted for all states as directed by the Bureau of Labor Statistics. The business survey collects data by place of work and creates information about jobs in various industries. The business survey data are non-seasonally adjusted at this time.

The Tennessee Department of Labor and Workforce Development is an equal opportunity employer. Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities.

El Departamento del Trabajo y de la Fuerza Laboral es un organismo empresarial que aplica la igualdad de oportunidades. Los Servicios y ayudas auxiliares están disponibles para los individuos con impedimentos si los solicitan.